



May 31, 2018

Dear Middle School Families (incoming Grades 6-8),

The Pingry English Department believes that one of the most important habits to develop as an educated person is a love of reading; therefore, we feel it is vital for students to continue reading throughout the summer.

Below please find our required summer readings by grade level:

Grade 6: Students entering Grade 6 will read Laurie Halse Anderson's *Chains* plus ONE additional book from the list of recommended sixth-grade books which are available on Pingry's website at pingry.org/SummerReading. Over the summer, students should complete the graphic organizer posted on our website for *Chains*. This graphic organizer is due **on the first day of class**, and students should submit a printed hard copy of their work. Students should be prepared to discuss and complete a creative project on their book of choice within the first few weeks of school.

Form I: Students entering Form I (Grade 7) will select TWO books of interest from the following list of eight:

- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly
- *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon
- *Between Shades of Gray* by Rupa Sepetys
- *Ugly* by Robert Hoge

For the first book, students should complete the "Summer Reading Questionnaire," which is available on Pingry's website at pingry.org/SummerReading. This questionnaire is due **on the first day of class**, and students should submit a printed hard copy of their work. Students should be prepared to discuss and complete a creative project on their second book of choice within the first few weeks of school.

Form II: Students entering Form II (Grade 8) will select TWO books of interest from the following list of eight:

- *March (Book 1)* by John Lewis
- *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie
- *Unbroken (Young Adult Adaptation)* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *American Street* by Ibi Zoboi
- *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *The Sun Is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon

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For the first book, students should complete the “Summer Reading Questionnaire,” which is available on Pingry’s website at pingry.org/SummerReading. This questionnaire is due **on the first day of class**, and students should submit a printed hard copy of their work. Students should be prepared to discuss and complete a creative project on their second book of choice within the first few weeks of school.

When choosing a summer reading book, consider your interests! Is the cover art appealing? Does the blurb catch your attention? Read the first few pages—is the vocabulary manageable? Do you like the writing style? Remember that some books are appealing to friends and family members, but they might not be to you—take control of your choice!

In addition to the required summer reading, we encourage students to read other books that simply interest them. If they like sports, read books on sports; if they like mysteries, read mysteries. What is most important is that our students read.

Have a wonderful summer!

Chris Taylor
English Department Chair

Laurie Piette
Middle School Director